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Kejīmkujik

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Canoe Routes/ Hiking Trails

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Wilderness Travel Regulations

For your own protection, and to help preserve these wilderness areas for future generations, certain regulations apply to wilderness travel.

A park visitor planning an overnight trip into a wilderness area must register with a Park Warden, or at the Information Office. This provides for your protection in the event of an accident, and increases your knowledge of the country in which you will be travelling. The Park Wardens are valuable sources of information concerning park waters, the best routes to take, what you will see, and where the best fishing pools are to be found.

Wilderness camping is permitted only at the primitive sites provided en route. Fireplaces are located in each campsite, and, to protect yourself and the forest these must be used for all fires. Also, portable camping stoves must be used only at these fireplaces. If you smoke while hiking, please do so when you have stopped for a rest. Make sure all cigarettes and matches are properly out. Anyone finding an unattended fire should try to extinguish it or, if it is beyond control, report it to the nearest park employee at once. Fire in a National Park may cause damage that cannot be repaired in 100 years.

Litter is an unsightly problem that seems to follow people everywhere. In Kejimikujik National Park, each visitor is issued with Pack-In-Pack-Out litter bags when they register.

Many wild animals make their home in Kejimikujik National Park, and it is always a thrill to see them in their natural environment. Wild animals, though, can be dangerous even if they appear tame and fearless. Please do not attempt to feed, approach, or molest them and do not encourage them to visit your campsite by leaving food or garbage lying about.

It is important to note that no person is allowed to have a firearm or any other device capable of killing or wounding game while in a National Park.

Flowers, trees, and even rocks are there for you to see and enjoy. Please do not damage or cut down trees, deface rocks, or pick wildflowers. Leave them for others to see and enjoy. Remember "take only pictures and leave only footprints".

Introduction

Welcome to Kejimikujik National Park, a wilderness area set aside in 1965 to preserve a superb example of the lakes, streams and forests of inland Nova Scotia. A large portion of the park has been designated as a wilderness recreation area, and as such, is accessible by foot or canoe only.

The park has developed a system of canoe routes and hiking trails that can provide many hours or days of true wilderness travel. There are four canoe route systems with a total of twenty-three portages, ranging in length from 1/10 mile to 1½ miles, and over seventy miles of hiking

trails. Primitive campsites are located along these routes.

Throughout the park you will see evidence of past history, from the many old sawmill sites with their sawdust piles and slab heaps to evidence of Indian activity, in the form of petroglyphs or rock etchings, graveyards, and a dam to capture eels. The results of the last ice age are also evident in the dome-shaped hills, snake-like ridges, and huge granite boulders, all deposited by receding glaciers.

Canoe Routes

The canoe routes are: the Peskowsk Lake System; the Mersey River System; the Little River System; and the West River System, making a total of seven different routes that can be taken by the canoeist.

The twenty-three portages are lettered for identification.

Many of these routes were used by the Micmac Indians while travelling from the Bay of Fundy to the Atlantic.

In nearly every lake, there are submerged rocks and shoals and the dark colouration of the water makes them very difficult to see. During strong winds, these lakes produce wave action that even experienced canoeists cannot cope with. Because of these conditions, we recommend that you exercise safe boating habits.

All lakes in this system contain varieties of fish, such as: speckled trout, brown trout, white and yellow perch and catfish or

bullhead. A variety of wildlife may also be seen en route, such as; white tail deer, red squirrel, mink, muskrat, otter, beaver, and black bear. Also, numerous varieties of birds, turtles and salamanders are present.

After the trip

We hope that you have enjoyed your trips in the wilderness of Kejimikujik National Park. You are living proof that the best way to see and to appreciate the fascinating forests, lakes and streams of this area of Nova Scotia is by foot or canoe. Before you leave the park, it is important to note that we value your opinions and comments. If you have found this booklet and its maps to be useful, we are pleased. If you have any comments that could improve this guide, or the maps, please let us know.

Canoe Routes

Portage A

Cranberry Portage - 3/4 mile - Minard Bay on Kejimikujik Lake to North Cranberry Lake. Passes through a mixed forest.

Portage B

Puzzle Lake Portage - 1/10 mile - North Cranberry Lake to Puzzle Lake, crossing the Fire Tower Road.

Portage C

Coblielle Lake Portage - 1/4 mile - Puzzle Lake to Coblielle Lake, passing through a largely softwood forest. There is a primitive campsite at the Coblielle Lake end of the portage.

Portage D

Peskowesk Lake Portage - 1/4 mile - Coblielle Lake to the eastern end of Peskowesk Lake, passing through a forest of softwoods. A primitive campsite is located on an island opposite the portage.

Portage E

The Big Hardwood Portage - 1 1/2 mile - Minard Bay on Kejimkujik Lake to Mountain Lake, passing through stands of young hardwoods and softwoods. This portage also crosses the Fire Tower Road, and there is a primitive campsite on the Mountain Lake end.

Portage F

Mountain Lake Portage - 1/2 mile - Mountain Lake to Peskowesk Lake. Passes through an area dominated by softwood forest. There is a primitive campsite at the Peskowesk Lake end.

Portage G

Hilchemakaar Lake Portage - 1/2 mile - Peskowesk Lake through second growth softwoods to Hilchemakaar Lake. Also crosses the Pebbleloggitch Lake Fire Road.

Portage H

Lower Silver Lake Portage - 1/10 mile - Hilchemakaar Lake to Lower Silver Lake. There is a primitive campsite on the Lower Silver Lake end of this portage.

Portage I

Back Lake Portage - 1/10 mile - Lower Silver Lake to Back Lake.

Portage J

Back Lake - Peskowsk Lake Portage - 3/4 mile - Back Lake to Peskowsk Lake, passing over several hardwood ridges. This portage will follow the Pebbleloggitch Lake Fire Road for a short distance before crossing.

Portage K

Beaverskin Lake Portage - 1/4 mile - Peskowsk Lake to Beaverskin Lake, crossing the Pebbleloggitch Lake Fire Road.

Portage L

Peskawa Lake Portage - 1/4 mile - starts at Beaverskin Lake, crosses the Pebbleloggitch Lake Fire Road and on to Peskawa Lake, passing through relatively mature timber.

Portage M

Pebbleloggitch Lake Portage - 1/10 mile - Leads from Peskawa Lake, crosses the Pebbleloggitch Lake Fire Road and on to Pebbleloggitch Lake. There is a cabin on this portage for visitor use. A word of caution is required here because if you intend canoeing the Shelburne River, you will be within the limits of the Tobeatic Game Management Area in which a special travel permit is required. The permit may be obtained from any Provincial Forest Ranger.

Portage N

Poison Ivy Falls Portage - 1/2 mile - Peskawa Lake to Peskowsk Lake by-passing Poison Ivy Falls. There is a primitive campsite on this portage.

Portage O

Eel Weir Portage - 1/2 mile - George Lake to the Mersey River, following the west bank of the river. Excellent fishing is available along this section of the Mersey River. At this point, it is also possible to see the boulder outline of the "V" shaped eel traps in the river, set in place by the Micmac Indians when they lived and hunted throughout this area of Nova Scotia.

Portage P

Loon Lake Portage - 1/10 mile - Loon Lake to the Mersey River, by-passing Loon Lake Falls. A canoe shelter is located on this portage.

Portage Q

This portage, about 1/4 mile long, leads from the end of an access road to the foot of Big Dam Lake, passing through second growth hardwoods and white pine. Big Dam Lake is divided into two distinct parts by a short stretch of narrow water in the middle of the lake. In these two halves can be seen dramatic evidence of the cause of the dark colouration of many of the lakes in the park. The east half is spring fed and the water is therefore quite clear. The west half of the lake, however, is stream fed, and you will note that the water is very dark. Most of these streams have their beginnings in the numerous bogs and swamps scattered throughout this section of the province. A great deal of vegetable matter is dissolved in these streams and the lakes fed by them take on the dark colouration.

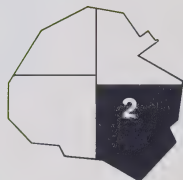
Legend

Highway	
Secondary Road	
Hiking or Walking Trail	
Primitive Campsite	
Warden Patrol Cabin	
Campground	
Supervised Beach	
Boat Launching Area	
Parking Area	
Highway View Point	
Canoe Portage	
Fire Tower	
Picnic Area	
Fish Hatchery	
Shelters (Campsite 8, 11, 15 only)	
Park Office and Information	









Scale in Miles











Portage R

Big Dam Lake Portage - 1/2 mile - Big Dam Lake to the still water on Little River, bypassing fast water and rocks. There is a primitive campsite near the Big Dam Lake end. Also, from the end of Big Dam Lake Portage downstream, Little River passes through very boggy country, with part of what is believed to be the longest esker in Nova Scotia on your right. This result of glacial action is known locally as the "Gold Ridge" or the "Indian Turnpike". During the spring, the river is bordered on each side with a profusion of vibrant pink flowers. Reptiles such as painted turtles may be seen in abundance along this river as they bask in the sun, using rocks or submerged logs from by-gone log drives as platforms.

Portage S

Frozen Ocean Lake Portage - 1/10 mile - Little River into Frozen Ocean Lake. Only necessary during periods of low water. A primitive campsite is located on your right as you enter the lake.

Portage T

The Ledges Portage - 1/10 mile - Frozen Ocean Lake into Little River. Necessary only during periods of low water.

Portage U

Rocky Falls and enters still water downstream. This portage is rocky and care is required.

Portage V

Coade's Portage - 1/2 mile - Leads from Central Lake and re-enters Little River

downstream. There are primitive campsites on each end of this portage.

Portage W

Jeremy Bay Portage - 1/2 mile - Begins near the mouth of Little River and crosses Indian Point to Jeremy Bay. This was developed as an alternative to paddling the lake on windy days.

Hiking Trails

Big Dam - Frozen Ocean Trail

14 miles return - Starts at the sharp corner just beyond the bridge crossing the Mersey River on the campground road. The trail runs north towards Big Dam Lake along an old logging road. It follows the lake and crosses Little River, then follows another logging road until it reaches Frozen Ocean Lake. The forest cover along this trail is largely hardwood, white pine and hemlock. The return trip is along the same route. You can continue along the trail to Dennis Boot Lake, where stands of large hemlock can be found.

Mersey River Trail

12 miles return - Begins near the parking lot at Kedge Beach, follows the west bank of the Mersey River upstream to the Administration Building. The return trip is along the same route. This provides an excellent opportunity to view the river environment, with its brown water, rapids and quiet pools. The forest cover along this trail is red maple, hemlock, fir, and beech.

Mill Falls Trail

2 miles return - This short trail provides a pleasant walk beginning at the Information Centre or the parking lot at the end of the Mill Falls Road where a popular picnic area is located. The ridge along the trail is forested with stands of spruce and hemlock.

Slapfoot Trail

4 miles return - This is a pleasant walking trail beginning at the parking lot at Kedge Beach. The trail follows the shore of Jeremy Bay and ends at the parking lot in the meadow area of Jeremy Bay Campground. It provides a splendid view of Kejimkujik Lake, Jeremy Bay and Indian Point. The forest cover here is mostly spruce, fir and hemlock.

Peter Point Trail

3 miles return - Begins approximately 1¼ miles beyond the fish hatchery. You walk along an old road until the end of the trail overlooking Kejimkujik Lake. The return trip is along the same route. Ideal for bird-watchers, it passes through three very different habitats; a low area of red maple and speckled alder, a hemlock stand and then on to a hardwood ridge.

Snake Lake Trail

3 miles return - Starts at the same place as the Peter Point Trail. After following the Peter Point Trail a short distance, a sign directs you to the left along the shore of Kejimkujik Lake. At the end of the trail you will loop south to Snake Lake, returning to the starting point along an old logging trail, inland from the lake. Varying examples of lake shore vegetation can be found en route.

McGinty Lake Trail

3 miles return - Starts at the junction of the access road about two miles beyond the fish hatchery. The trail follows an old road to the park boundary and the return trip is along the same route. Shaded by a mixed forest of soft and hardwood trees, it crosses three branches of Sweeney Brook.

Fire Tower Trail

2 miles return - The trail head is accessible by car by travelling south from the fish hatchery for 10½ miles to a gate and small parking area. From here to the fire tower you will pass through a large stand of hardwoods as well as smaller areas of young softwoods. Evidence of logging in the past is noticeable as you will find remains of old logging camps, decaying tree stumps and numerous old roads. The return trip is over the same route.

Little Peskowsk Lake Trail

4 miles return - Begins ten miles south of the fish hatchery just beyond Peskowsk Brook on the south side of the road. The trail follows a former logging road through a forest cover almost exclusively softwood, dominated by large stands of white pine. It passes close to Little Peskowsk Lake and on to the park boundary. The return trip is along the same route.

Pebbleloggitch Lake Trail

20 miles return - Starts one mile beyond Peskowsk Brook and follows an old logging road to Lucifer Brook. The forest cover here is a variety of second growth

hardwood, and softwood with much evidence of past logging in the form of old mill sites and slab piles. The return trip is along the same route. An overnight shelter is located on the trail at Pebbleloggitch Lake.

Liberty Lake Trail

34 miles one way - A continuation of either Frozen Ocean Trail or Pebbleloggitch Lake Trail. Beginning at the parking lot at the bottom end of Big Dam Lake, it continues along the Frozen Ocean Trail and on to Liberty Lake, a distance of nearly 16 miles. From Liberty Lake, one trail leads to camp-site #12 on West River, 9.5 miles distant, or you can continue 17.5 miles to the end of the trail at the bottom end of Peskowsk Lake.

Luxion Lake Trail

9 miles return - Starts north of Beaverskin Lake on the Pebbleloggitch Lake Trail. It travels north past Poison Ivy Falls, and on to Luxion Lake. In the Ben Lake area, one can find remains of corduroy roads built many years ago. The forest cover encountered along the trail is white pine, some areas of mature softwood, and in the Luxion Lake area, open hardwood stands. The return trip is along the same route.



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